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**7AM - 9:45AM**

# Rochester & Rochester Hills Gazette

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**March 28, 2019**  
 Vol. 3, No. 48

## L. Brooks Patterson Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer

by **DREW HOWARD**

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson announced Tuesday he has been diagnosed with stage-4 pancreatic cancer during a press conference attended by colleagues, friends, and family.

The longtime county executive confirmed at the press conference that he will continue to serve his term while he seeks ongoing treatment at the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Patterson, however, made it clear that he has no intention to seek reelection for an eighth term in 2020.

"I have every intention of coming back and finishing the term," Patterson said. "I'll be out of here in four years, God willing and the creek don't rise."

Patterson, 80, has served with Oakland County for more than 40 years, starting his career in 1973 as the Oakland County Prosecutor before being elected as executive in 1992.

The cancer diagnosis isn't Patterson's first health scare. In August 2012, the executive was involved in a motor vehicle accident that hospitalized him for several weeks with several broken bones.

Patterson, while certainly emotional, attempted to keep a light tone during Tuesday's announcement. "Alex Trebek has nothing on me," he joked. "I'm fighting this cancer to be among the 10 percent who survive it. I will

See PATTERSON, page 2



**U.S. REP. ELISSA SLOTKIN held her first town hall event at Oakland University on Thursday. Hundreds of constituents, from high school students to senior citizens, were in the audience to press the 8th district representative on issues including health care, gun control, impeachment, and border security. Part of her "radical listening tour," Rep. Slotkin said that it was a good opportunity to talk directly to people and hear what their concerns were, especially regarding increasing polarization in Washington.**

## Slotkin Holds First Town Hall at OU

by **ELENA DURNBAUGH**

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan's 8th Congressional District hosted her first town hall since being elected at Oakland University last Thursday.

The meeting, which Slotkin characterized as an "act of radical listening," was part of Slotkin's campaign promise to hold a town hall with her constituents every three months.

"Something happens when you are in the community listening to people," Slotkin said at the start of the town hall. "We are a different breed sent to Washington with a different mission: to get something done."

The focus of the evening was health care, but attendees were able to submit questions they wanted the congresswoman to address on any topic.

Slotkin covered a variety of subjects including health care, border security, gun control, antisemitism and hate speech, student debt, and the Green New Deal. She also talked about the state of American democracy and the Mueller report, which as of last week had not yet been submitted to Attorney General William Barr.

On health care, Slotkin said she supported a more expansive Medicare program, but did not go as far as some of her Democratic counterparts who support a single-payer system. Instead, Slotkin envisions a system that

See SLOTKIN, page 2

## Barnes and Noble Comes to The Village of Rochester Hills

by **ELENA DURNBAUGH**

The latest store at The Village of Rochester Hills is a new take on an old classic.

Barnes and Noble opened a store prototype at The Village of Rochester Hills Wednesday, which features a cleaner, more modern look. The store is the first of its kind in Michigan and one of 10 in the United States. Books and customer experience are the focus of the store, which aims to promote discovery and community with its design.

"We wanted to create a bookstore with a contemporary

feel... with books at the center," said Frank Morabito, vice president of stores at Barnes and Noble. "We look forward to serving the residents of this community."

The space is open and brightly lit, and the shorter shelves and hanging signs make the bookfloor easier to navigate. Kiosks, where customers can search for books, are dotted throughout the store, and illuminated bookcases brighten many of the shelves along the back wall. Two circular book theaters, round tables with a central tower featuring face-out books, help readers explore new titles.

"We want to help them on that journey of discovery," said store manager Lisa Kargol. "Books are the primary product of what we do."

Booksellers will support the more customer-friendly layout and help personalize the shopping experience. Equipped with tablets, they'll help people find things in-store or place a custom order. Employees will also be able to process credit transactions from the book floor, providing customers with another place to complete their purchase without having to wait in line.

See BARNES & NOBLE, page 3

## Inside This Issue

6

Home & Garden

7

Classifieds



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## County Executive Won't Seek Re-Election After Cancer Diagnosis

Editor's Note: Story includes vulgar language

PATTERSON, From page 1

continue to do my job as Oakland County executive alongside the members of my administration who comprise the best team anywhere in government."



L. BROOKS PATTERSON

"There's an 11 percent chance you can walk away, and I intend to be a part of that 11 percent."

Dozens of leaders from around Oakland County and metro Detroit shared their condolences for Patterson following the news. Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, who just recently announced he will be running for executive, reacted to the news.

"I am saddened to hear about Brooks' health," Meisner said in a press release Tuesday. "He has made serving Oakland County his life's work, and his leadership has impacted nearly every element of our region. I stand ready to help him steward the County in the coming months and wish him peace and comfort."

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Dave Woodward, who is also running for county executive, responded, saying, "Despite political differences over the years, like just about everyone in Oakland County, I respect L. Brooks Patterson's tremendous capacity to hang tough and give back as good as he gets," Woodward wrote. "There's no doubt he will be bringing his trademark Brooks tenacity to this fight, and we are in with him on this one."

The "Brooks tenacity" was on full display Tuesday when Patterson addressed the press conference audience. "This is not a goodbye," he said. "This is just an announcement of a shitty deck of cards dealt to me, that I intend to play out."

## Rep. Slotkin Fields Questions on Health Care, Guns, and Impeachment

SLOTKIN, From page 1

would automatically enroll uninsured people into Medicare and would allow all Americans to buy into the program without requiring those with private insurance to leave it.

"Everyone has the right to health care they can afford," Slotkin said. "If we provide good coverage at a good cost, it will be the most popular program in the country."

Slotkin said that health care was one of the most common issues she heard about from her constituents.

"Health care is a very personal issue, so it's pretty painful and emotional for people, and so when they're talking to me, it's not a policy conversation," she said. "People have a lot of pain, and they want to be heard."

When discussing border security, Slotkin described the country's immigration system as "broken" and said that she supported increased border security. "I just want to be smart about it," she said. "We can't selectively enforce a broken system."

The congresswoman also highlighted Michigan's role in the conversation as a northern border state.

On the issue of gun control, Slotkin said that she supported universal background checks, closing loopholes, and standardizing how guns are bought. According to the congresswoman, there is currently a bill sitting with the Republican-controlled Senate addressing gun control.

"If you're interested in seeing that issue move, you have to articulate that," she said.

Slotkin also addressed the rise in hate crimes, antisemitism, and white supremacy in the country. She said that it was important for people to show leadership and speak out against those ideas.

"We need to call a spade a spade and call out hate speech whenever we see it," Slotkin said.

Another topic covered at the town hall was student debt. Slotkin said that she thought that interest on student loans should be capped at 2.5 percent and that federal funding should be increased.

"If you went to Michigan State 50 years ago, your life is completely different than a current Michigan State student. And that changes your outlook on life," Slotkin told the Gazette after the event. "We shouldn't be surprised when our youngest people are the most focused on to the big sweeping ideas that are being proposed for real change

because they are living a life that is harder than their parents."

Slotkin was asked about the sweeping changes being proposed by fellow Democrats in legislation like the Green New Deal, which addresses climate change and economic inequality. Although she said she supported the "spirit of the Green New Deal," Slotkin said that the legislation needed to take a more pragmatic approach in order to pass.

"I believe in passing something real," she said.

According to Slotkin, climate change should be tackled from an economic angle. "That is the way to do it more precipitously and see it done in our lifetime," she said.

Many people submitted questions about the overall state of democracy in the country. Slotkin said that she was working together with other members of the House on the H.R. 1 "For the People Act," which seeks to strengthen the democratic process by improving people's access to the ballot box and reducing the influence of big money in politics. As part of the legislation, Slotkin proposed a bill that closes the loophole allowing foreigners to buy ads in election campaigns.

"We have to fight for our democracy," she said.

At Thursday town hall, Slotkin said that she was waiting on the Mueller report before making any decisions about impeachment and said she planned to read the report in its entirety. She highlighted that earlier this month the House passed a unanimous bipartisan resolution to make the report public.

Following the conclusion of the report last Friday, Slotkin released a statement affirming that position.

"As we review the investigation's findings, I believe both Congress and the American people should be able to read the report for themselves," she said. "Two weeks ago, Congress unanimously voted to make Mueller's full report public—and that is what the Attorney General should do."

After the town hall, Slotkin said that it was a good opportunity to talk directly to people and hear what their concerns were, especially regarding increasing polarization in Washington.

"Michiganders look at what's happening in Washington, and they don't like it," she said. "I think there's a real concern over this tone that things are just not getting done. That the house can pass something that the Senate doesn't take up. You head that

over and over again: 'how do you move things?'"

Kathleen VanPoppelen was at the town hall to hear what Slotkin had to say and to express her support. She worked on Slotkin's campaign last year, even though she identifies as a Republican, and supported Slotkin because she said Slotkin understands Washington and knows how to get things done. She said she was impressed by the congresswoman's civility and refusal to attack people with differing political views.

"I have the utmost confidence that she's working for us," VanPoppelen said.

Evan Catsburg is a junior at Stoney Creek High School. He came to the town hall hoping to ask the congresswoman about abortion, which was an issue that she did not address. Catsburg said he was glad to hear Slotkin identify herself as fiscally conservative because he was concerned about spending in Washington.

"I believe she does have good ideas and good intentions," Catsburg said.

Oakland University student and president of the College Democrats at Oakland University, Chase Lindenthal, liked what he heard from Slotkin.

"She answered the questions directly," he said. "We want her to give her opinions and not some sugar-coated bull\*\*\*\*."

On the issue of health care, Lindenthal said that Slotkin was offering a great alternative to a single-payer system that was more likely to win bipartisan support.

"We have to have people like Elissa running in states like Michigan," he said.

Oakland University President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz said that she was glad that the university campus was able to provide a place for the town hall.

"We welcome politicians from all parties," Pescovitz said. "It's a great venue for politicians to come and express their views and for the public to come and learn and participate in public discourse."

Slotkin represents Michigan's 8th congressional district, which covers North Oakland, Livingston, and Ingham counties. She recently opened up a second office in Rochester Hills at 445 S. Livernois. To learn contact her, visit [slotkin.house.gov/](http://slotkin.house.gov/).

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# Who Are You? Suspect in Two Macomb Bank Robberies Strikes Again in Oakland

## POLICE PATROL



■ **FATAL CRASH IN OXFORD** - The Oakland County Crash Reconstruction

Unit is assisting deputies with the Oxford Township Substation in the investigation of a fatal traffic crash involving two vehicles. The traffic crash occurred on Seymour Lake Road in Oxford Township at the intersection of Dunlap Road at approximately 9:11 a.m. on Saturday, March 23. An 18-year-old resident of Oxford Township was driving a 2012 Ford F-250 eastbound on Seymour Lake Road approaching the intersection of Dunlap Road where another pickup truck was stopped ahead in the eastbound lane, waiting to turn left onto Dunlap Road. The driver of the Ford did not see the stopped vehicle until he was very close to it. He swerved to the left,

over the centerline of the road to avoid it, into the path of an approaching westbound 2008 Dodge Ram 1500. The Ford and the Dodge collided head-on. The Dodge was being driven by Neil Simat, a 56-year-old resident of the Village of Oxford. Mr. Simat was pronounced dead at the scene. An 18-year-old resident of Addison Township and a 19-year-old resident of the Village of Oxford were both passengers in the Dodge. It appears all three occupants of the Dodge were wearing seatbelts and the passengers were not injured. Neither alcohol nor drugs appear to have been a factor in this crash. The crash remains under investigation.

■ **WRONG CAR ACCORDING TO THE PLATES** - A Rochester officer was in the area of Main and Second at 1:35 a.m. on March 17, and observed a vehicle turning right from Second onto southbound Main. The officer observed the vehicle make a wide right turn, into the left through lane, with the driver's side tires driving on the double yellow lane marker. The officer followed the vehicle and observed the vehicle swerve to the

left causing the driver's side tires to cross over the double yellow lane marker. The officer completed a records check of the vehicle and observed the attached license plate came back to a 2015 Ford Focus, but the vehicle the officer was following was a newer model Buick SUV. A traffic stop was conducted, and the officer made contact with the driver, a 22-year-old Macomb Twp. man. The officer observed signs the driver had been drinking and he was placed through field sobriety testing. The male failed all offered tests and was transported to the Rochester police department where he consented to a breath test resulting in a .11% BAC and .12% BAC. The male was held until sober and released with a pending court date for operating while intoxicated and improper plates.

■ **BANK ROBBERY IN ORION** - Deputies responded to the Bank of America located in the 1300 block of S. Lapeer Rd on the report of a Bank Robbery. Upon arrival, it was determined that the subject had produced a note and demanded money from the teller. No weapon

was seen or implied. The subject then exited the bank with an undetermined amount of money. Detectives determined that the suspect matched the description of a person wanted in connection with



similar robberies in Shelby Township and Chesterfield Township in Macomb County. Detectives are working with those detectives and the FBI. The man is described as approximately 6'4" tall, last seen wearing a light-colored shirt, dark brown jacket, blue jeans, tennis shoes and a burgundy Carhart hat with glasses hanging around his neck. Anyone with information on this suspect is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP. There is a \$1000 cash reward and you will remain anonymous.

■ **RECORDS CHECK REVEALS SUSPENDED LICENSE** - On March 15 at 6:10 p.m., a Rochester officer was in the area of Pine and University when he observed a

vehicle come to an abrupt stop, past the designated stop line, for the red light. The officer completed a records check of the vehicle which showed the registered owner's license to be currently suspended. The officer conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle and made contact with the driver, a 33-year-old Rochester Hills man. The officer confirmed through a records check the man driver was the registered owner. The man was transported to the Rochester police department and later released with a pending court date for driving on a suspended license.

■ **ANOTHER ONE** - On March 16 at 1:50 a.m., a Rochester officer was in the area of Main and Second and observed a vehicle with an expired license plate tab. The officer completed a records check of the vehicle which showed the license plate expired as of July 2018 and the registered owner's license was currently suspended. The officer conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle and made contact with a 31-year-old man from Detroit. He was transported to the Rochester police department and later released with a pending court date for driving on a suspended license.

*Note: If you have any information on the aforementioned crimes, call the Rochester Police Department at 248-651-9621 or the OCSO Rochester Hills Substation at 248-537-3530.*

## New Barnes and Noble Now Open in Rochester Hills

BARNES & NOBLE, From page 1

Beyond basic help, booksellers also happy to talk about books and make recommendations.

**Jeremiah Johnston** has worked with Barnes and Noble for 23 years and is part of the new store's team. He said he's looking forward to offering strong customer service and building a community around the new location.

seating provides more places for people to sit when the weather is nice.

The children's section includes a Lego activity table and a "jungle gym" display for toys and popular children's characters, which makes the space fun for young readers. Near the big picture windows at the front of the store, there's a designated storytime space

focused in other ways, too. Local authors are featured throughout the store and there are special sections highlighting books on local sports, interests, and history.

**Events will also** have a local focus. Wednesday night, Detroit writer Mitch Albom came for a book signing. Kasey Pierce, another local author, will be at the store Friday at 7 p.m. Kargol said that the store also plans to coordinate with events happening in The Village.

"These prototypes are really customized for their community," said Mei Sanchez, senior manager for corporate communications at Barnes and Noble.

**Kargol, who is** also Rochester resident, said she envisions her store as a community gathering place. Whether it's people sitting in between the aisles to page through a new book, stopping by the cafe to grab a cup of coffee, or local high school students meeting up to study, she said she hopes it will be somewhere people will want to spend time.

Barnes and Noble already has a store in Rochester, which will stay open.

"**This is a really strong market** for us," Morabito said. "We think it's going to add convenience to customers."

*The store is in the former location of Bath and Body Works and B Spot Burgers. Barnes and Noble in The Village of Rochester Hills is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.- 10 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.*



"Anybody can go to a website. We're here to put the book in their hands," he said. "This is the future of Barnes and Noble. I'm excited to take it that next step."

**In addition** to books, the new store aims to be a place where people can gather. An open area near the magazine section is filled with low tables and comfortable chairs for people to sit and read or socialize. There's also a large community work table where people can meet to collaborate or work independently. Outside, patio

"**We've always** been about community," Morabito said. "What really differentiates us is that we create this space where you can come in, meet people, browse."

The store will host regularly occurring events, like storytime every Saturday and a monthly adult book club, in addition to special events like book signings.

"**I want to make sure** what we do is what customers and families want," said Kargol. "I want this to be something that the community says, 'That's my Barnes and Noble.'" The new location is community

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Graphic Novel, Nan A. Talese

## MUSIC

**Homeshake** Saturday, March 30, 8 p.m. El Club, Detroit

**Bon Iver** Monday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Fox Theatre, Detroit

**Blackbear** Friday, April 12, 7 p.m., Meadow Brook Amphitheatre

**Kodak Black** Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m. Masonic Temple Theatre, Detroit

**Electric Wizard** Tuesday, April 16, 8 p.m. Royal Oak Music Theatre

**Ferndale Spring Fever** April 25-27, Ferndale - 3 Days, 4 Venues, 45 Bands

## ON STAGE

**Stick Fly** Now thru April 4, Meadow Brook Theatre, Rochester

**Boeing Boeing** Now thru April 7, Stagecrafters, Royal Oak, stagecrafters.org

**Venus** Now thru April 13, Studio Theatre at the Hillberry, Detroit

**Opal** April 4-14, Rochester College Theatre

**Mamma Mia!** April 5-14, Bonstelle Theatre, Detroit

**Hansel & Gretel** April 6-14, Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus

**Doug Benson** Friday, April 19, 9 p.m. Royal Oak Music Theatre

## NIGHTLIFE

**Karaoke** Every Tuesday at Penny Black Grill & Tap, Rochester

**Lecture Series: Nature Getaways** Friday, March 29, 7 p.m. Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm

**Make Your Own Antler Knife and Sheath** Monday, April 1, 8, and 15, Borden Park, Rochester Hills

**Taste of the Rising Stars** Monday, April 15, 6 p.m. Fieldstone Winery & Hard Cider, Rochester - Featuring cooking demonstrations from Rising Star Academy students

**Happy Hour for Hope** Thursday, April 18, 5 p.m. Rochester Mills Beer Co.

**Happy Hour Specials** Every day 4-6 p.m. The Meeting House, Downtown Rochester

## LIBRARY

All events take place at Rochester Hills Public Library, 500 Olde Towne Rd in Rochester, unless stated otherwise. Register at [Rhpl.org/](http://Rhpl.org/).

**ELL Conversation Group** Tuesday, April 2, 10 a.m.

**Meet Author Adriana Trigiani** Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m. Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Township

**Drop-In Genealogy Help** Friday, April 5, 10 a.m.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** Saturday, April 6, 1 p.m.

**Basic Tech Help for Seniors** Sunday, April 7, 1:30 p.m.

**HPV Panel Discussion** with Ascension Providence of Rochester Tuesday, April 9, 6 p.m.

**6th Annual Wine, Wit, & Wisdom** Saturday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

## KIDS & TEENS

**Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament** Saturday, March 30, 2 p.m. Regular drop-in free play before and after

**Low-Tech STEAM Mini Camp** April 1-5, 1 p.m. Children K-8 will participate in a new challenge each day

**Make Braille Jewelry** Wednesday, April 3, 10 a.m.

**PAWS** Wednesday, April 3, 6 p.m. Practice reading with trained therapy dog Abbey

**Game Night** Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m. Gaming, anime, movies, and entertainment for teens

**Spring Storytime** Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Lyle Lovett** Thursday, July 25, 7 p.m. Royal Oak Music Theatre

**Ben Folds & Violent Femmes** Sunday, August 11, 7:30 p.m., Meadow Brook Amphitheatre

**Sigrid** Thursday, September 26, 8 p.m. El Club, Detroit

To submit an event, email [News@gazettegroup.com](mailto:News@gazettegroup.com). Submissions run in the paper space permitting. To advertise an event, email [Advertising@gazettegroup.com](mailto:Advertising@gazettegroup.com).

## GAZETTE RECOMMENDS...



### THE INVENTOR: OUT FOR BLOOD IN SILICON VALLEY

Originally premiering at the Sundance Film Festival and now showing on HBO, this documentary explores American tech entrepreneur and alleged fraud, Elizabeth Holmes. Once described as "the next Steve Jobs," this documentary explores Holmes' financial decline and the questions surrounding her medical testing company Theranos. While it doesn't exactly condemn Holmes as a fraud, it does shed a light on how she became one of Fortune's "World's Most Disappointing Leaders."

- AJ White, Creative Director

# How to Dismantle the Two-Party System

## PERSPECTIVES



Op-Ed by  
NATHAN INKS

The easiest way to win an election is to limit competition from other candidates. This has been the approach Republicans and Democrats across the nation have taken to ensure the steadfastness of the two-party system for decades.

Many states make it significantly more difficult for third-party or independent candidates to qualify to be on the ballot. For example, in Michigan a Democratic or Republican candidate for Congress needs to collect at least 1,000 signatures, while an independent congressional candidate needs to collect at least 3,000 signatures; candidates who belong to a minor party are nominated via convention.

But Republicans and Democrats do not merely rig the rules; they also change them when necessary. In 1990 when Democrats in Virginia realized that their failure to challenge popular Republican Senator John Warner would keep them off the ballot in the next election, the state legislature convened a special session to change the definition of "party" under state law. Colorado Republicans barely avoided a similar fate in 2010 when Tom Tancredo left the GOP to run for governor as a third-party candidate. The Republican

candidate squeaked over the threshold by 20,000 votes in an election with nearly 1.8 million ballots cast.

Some ballot access restrictions certainly make sense. Without a reasonable threshold, voters would enter the voting booth to be confronted with a multi-page ballot filled with a few serious candidates intermixed with dozens of noncontenders. Such a scenario would discourage, rather than encourage, an educated electorate, as voters could be overwhelmed with choices. That being said, methods to reduce the number of "joke candidates" should be minimal, and many current laws are not remotely related to serving this purpose. There is simply no reason that an independent candidate should have to collect three times the number of signatures as a partisan candidate, and any candidate who has managed to collect at least 1,000 signatures has shown at least a minimal amount of dedication to campaigning to be taken seriously.

One Michigan Congressman, Republican Justin Amash, hopes to change all of this. Amash recently introduced the Ballot Fairness Act, which would require states to impose the same ballot access requirements on all general congressional elections, regardless of whether they are nominated by a political party; the bill would also eliminate straight ticket voting. Because the federal government has no general ability

to regulate states' ballot access laws – as long as they are otherwise constitutional – the bill would only apply to general elections for Senators, Representatives, and their territorial equivalents.

Amash's reform is different from typical election reforms, which tend to be self-serving – Republican legislatures changing the rules to help the GOP, and Democratic legislatures doing the opposite. Amash's bill is just the opposite. Although eliminating straight-ticket voting has been a mantra of Michigan Republicans in recent years, as a self-described libertarian, Amash has likely been one of the biggest benefactors of straight-ticket voting in the state, and he is probably one of the only elected officials who is openly advocating to make it easier to get on the ballot to potentially challenge him.

Unfortunately, the bill is unlikely to gain much traction, as neither Republicans nor Democrats have expressed an overwhelming willingness to make it easier for third-party and independent challengers to gain ballot access. Regardless, it is refreshing to see a politician who is putting principles before partisanship. This country needs more elected officials who want to see an increase in good candidates running for office instead of protecting the arbitrary nature of a broken and abused two-party system.

Send a letter to the editor at [Andrew@GazetteMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@GazetteMediaGroup.com)

# Sensory Processing Changes in Dementia



by Eileen Martinez,  
Community Liaison for  
ComForCare

Spring seems to be making its way to Michigan and just as our seasons change, you may find that caring for a loved one with dementia requires you to make a change, too.

Today, let's talk about the "Sensory Processing" changes those with dementia may experience. With dementia, the brain is deteriorating and so too are a person's sense of sight, hearing, taste, and touch. Dementia presents a new level of sensory input that is unique to each person. What they once enjoyed can now be overwhelming. So, know that the extent of these changes are unique to each individual and may change. One approach may not work for all and some may require an abundance of individualized care. Keep a notebook around to take notes. Note the time and place of occurrences and see if you can uncover patterns that will help with routines and adjustments to a care plan.

A person's sense of vision is often impacted by dementia. A loss of depth perception can occur, as well as a loss of peripheral vision, the need for high color contrast, the need for brighter lighting, and even the loss of half of their visual field.

Keep in mind that while the eyes are healthy, it's the brain that is being impacted by dementia that leads to these problems.

A study in the Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology cites lesions found on the parietal and temporal lobes as the contributing factor for the impairment of binocular depth perception. Dr. Deborah Bier explains in her DementiaWise training that this can manifest when there is carpeting with patterns in it. The loss of depth perception can cause patterns in carpeting to appear as "objects" on a rug and they may try to pick up the "objects." If you notice this behavior, you now know the cause and can work to redirect. Reassure them that someone will pick-up the "objects" and redirect the conversation or have them participate in a meaningful activity they are able to do and enjoy.

The loss of depth perception can be used as a tool to prevent wandering. Placing a black rug in front of doors will be perceived as a hole in the ground that they, of course, don't want to encounter.

Utilizing this information to adjust how you care for a loved one can lead to better days and an improved quality of life for both you and your loved one.

Eileen Martinez is a Community Liaison for ComForCare – North Oakland County, located at 2708 S Rochester Rd in Rochester Hills. Call 248-623-6500, email [Eileen.martinez@comforcare.com](mailto:Eileen.martinez@comforcare.com) or visit [Comforcare.com/mi/northoakland/](http://Comforcare.com/mi/northoakland/) to learn more.

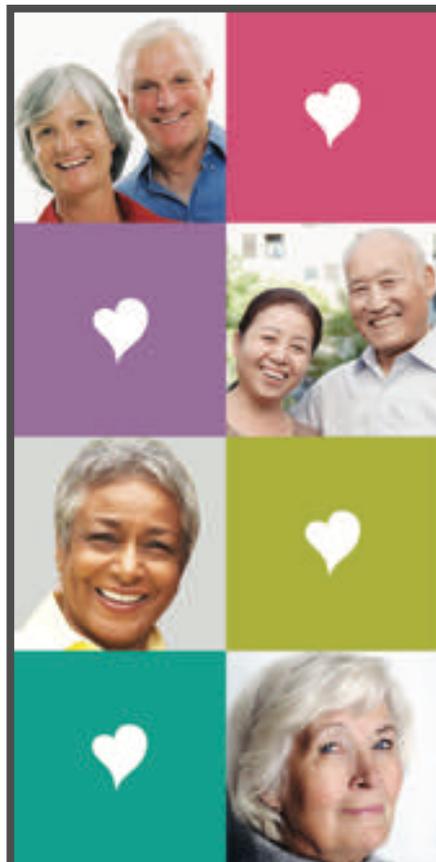
## Measles Outbreak Continues: Nearly Two Dozen Cases

The Oakland County Health Department has confirmed 21 cases of measles in the area since March 13.

Symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes, followed by the appearance of tiny white spots inside the mouth and a red body rash.

The disease is highly contagious. If symptoms develop, do not go directly to the doctor or the emergency room. Call ahead so that they can take precautions to limit exposure.

The measles vaccine is effective within 72 hours of exposure. To see a full list of exposure dates and locations, visit [oak.gov/health/](http://oak.gov/health/).



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# Home & Garden

## Rochester Garden Club: Gardening for the Birds Benefits Us All

### ROOTED IN ROCHESTER

by  
ROCHESTER GARDEN CLUB

As spring awakens, gardeners eagerly head outdoors to check on what is happening in the garden. One of the special delights this time of year is observing the diversity of bird species that have returned. Some, such as cardinals, robins, blue jays and chickadees, will winter over, but many migrants have begun returning. Red wing blackbirds are often the first newcomers, followed by song sparrows, blue birds, orioles, hummingbirds, wrens and so much more. This time of year, many birds pass through on their way to their summer homes in northern Michigan and beyond.

**Gardeners have a special ability** to help our birds as their original

habitats are fragmented, degraded or altered through human activity. Birds need three things to thrive like shelter, food, and water.

Luckily, these are things gardeners easily can provide.

Plants that are native to this area tend to be more beneficial to birds than exotic non-native plants. Native plants can provide the types of food birds need to thrive including fruits, nuts, seeds, and nectar while supporting beneficial insect populations. Exotic plants often do not supply the type of food necessary for our local birds. In fact, one single native oak tree can support hundreds of species of caterpillars which is an important food source, while the exotic Bradford pear tree only supports a very few individuals of only one species.

**Berries on exotic plants may not ripen at the right time for bird migration.** Nuts and seeds from

exotic plants may be the wrong size or have poor nutritional content for the birds. The National Audubon Society has a webpage to help identify native plants in your area, [audubon.org/native-plants/](http://audubon.org/native-plants/). Just provide a zip code and bird-friendly native plant choices will be suggested.

If gardeners think of their yards as bird habitat, then they will make good decisions when planting time comes. The most important concept is to create habitat layers. Plant large canopy trees such as oaks, maples, birch, and cherries to provide resources such as plentiful food choices, nesting cavities, and roosting spots. Woody shrubs are essential as well. These provide berries, cover from predators and songbird nesting sites. Herbaceous plants include annuals, perennials and ground covers bring in pollinators that will lay eggs and provide insect forage for birds. The

bottom layer of the garden is also very important. The ground level that is full of decaying leaves, wood and rich soil provide nesting materials and a home for many of the invertebrates that birds eat, including the pupae of most moth caterpillars, a favorite of baby birds.

**A water source** is also important for our birds. Something as simple as a hollowed-out boulder can catch rainwater. Of course, there are many beautiful bird baths available at the local nursery. Some gardeners provide a drip bath or a fountain feature. Just be sure to keep them clean, operational, and full of fresh water.

In caring for the garden, don't be too neat. Leave some of the spent blooms on your flowers as they will provide seeds. Leave the leaves! They provide a natural mulch and offer habitat for insects and invertebrates that birds will appreciate. Try to keep some large

pieces of wood on the ground, maybe in an out of the way location in the garden. As they decay into rich soil, they will provide cover, food and important fungi for the soil. If possible, leave some dead wood standing for the cavity-nesting birds. Woodpeckers will open holes that will quickly become homes for chickadees, wrens, bluebirds and many more species. Bird houses also benefit these birds.

**Finally**, to minimize pesticide use, do so only when necessary!

A diversity of native plants will attract birds that will keep the number of insects under control. As native plant master Doug Tallamy said, "Garden as if life depends on it."

**Rochester Garden Club recently hosted a sold-out "Beautiful Tables, Beautiful Gardens" presentation at Van Hoosen Farm. Learn more about the Rochester Garden Club at [Rochestergardenclub.org/](http://Rochestergardenclub.org/).**

## Selling Your Home? Here are Three Tips for Getting it Done Right the First Time

### HOME MATTERS



by  
PAULA REA,  
REAL ESTATE ONE

There is a famous quote that says, "Anything worth doing is worth doing right the first time." We believe this also applies to selling your house.

In today's market, it's becoming standard practice for us to list homes that have already been on the market two or three times. There are various reasons for this, and they include, but aren't limited to, the following reasons.

**1. Your house must be priced right from the start.** Zillow is one

example of how "home value calculator" websites are notorious for exaggerating the value of homes. Overpricing your home when you initially list can sometimes cause you to end up losing money in the long run. When you overprice a house, and serious buyers come along, they realize your home isn't valued at the listing price and will either show complete disregard or possibly counter with a lower rate than the house is worth. Why? Because now they don't trust you.

**A good realtor** will tell you this isn't how you get the best value for your home. Price your house appropriately with just a small amount of room to negotiate, and when people check your home's value against similar dwellings within your area, they will know you are a serious seller and will be more willing to talk price.

**2. Choose the right agent from the start!** Find an agent that not only has experience within your area, but also shares your same core values. Having an agent that knows how the market is reacting today, and how the buyers are responding to homes, is very important for your agent to understand. Your agent should be an effective communicator and willing to accommodate your schedule and the needs of those living in the home. You want an agent that genuinely cares about you and the sale of your home.

Another consideration when choosing an agent is asking for a list of references and then following up with these clients. Choosing the wrong agent could be very costly, so be sure to prepare a list of questions and treat each realtor appointment as though it were a job interview,

because it is!

Do your research. Google your realtor prospects. What are others saying about them? Follow them on social media and see how they are representing other clients. Do you like their website? You should, because you'll be sharing their link on your own social media pages to help with the sale of your home hopefully.

**3. Curb appeal and interior upkeep.** These factors are of the utmost importance when preparing to sell. Scheduling an appointment with a home stager can help you with the interior of the house and simple refreshers like a new welcome mat and potted plants at the front door welcome buyers into what could become their next home. It's also important not to neglect the landscaping and yard. Make sure there is no trash lying around, and

a minimalist approach to outdoor décor is best for the sale of your home.

When working with an experienced team of realtors, they have the wisdom to keep up to date with current real estate laws and code of ethics. An experienced realtor is a must because the rules are ever-changing, and you want a someone who's willing to invest the time and energy to make sure your real estate transaction doesn't involve any unwanted surprises. We've witnessed too many deals where buyers and sellers have been protected through sound business practices on our part, but those clients represented by others have found themselves in an unsettling position with signed documents and are now legally obligated to uphold these contracts. When you have closed as many deals as we have, you learn to successfully guide clients through the real estate process from beginning to end and protect both the buyer and the seller.

**Hiring a team** of professional realtors like The Linda Rea Team will help you, as they say, "get it done right the first time."

**I'd love the opportunity to sit down with you and go over how we can protect you and one of the biggest investments you will ever make. Give me a call! Paula Rea-Johnston, 248-770-8661.**

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To view the latest blood drives in your area, or to make an appointment to donate, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.

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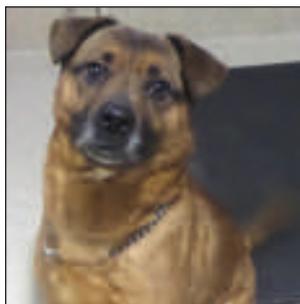


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The Gazette creates and curates hyper-local content and distributes free weekly newspapers throughout businesses in the community. Go to [GetYourGazette.com](http://GetYourGazette.com) to read past issues and to find the nearest pick-up location.

The Gazette is always looking for news, photos, and tips from around the community. Email [News@GazetteMediaGroup.com](mailto:News@GazetteMediaGroup.com) or call 248-524-4868 for editorial submissions.

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 | 8 |   |   | 2 | 7 |
|   | 1 |   | 7 |   | 3 |   |   |
| 5 |   |   | 6 |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 | 4 | 8 |
|   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |
| 4 | 3 |   | 5 |   | 7 |   |   |
|   |   | 4 |   |   | 7 |   | 3 |
|   |   | 9 |   |   | 8 | 7 |   |
| 3 | 6 |   |   |   | 9 | 8 |   |

## Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 3 |
| 3 |   | 8 | 5 |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 2 | 4 |   | 3 | 1 |   |
|   | 3 |   |   | 4 | 6 |   | 1 |
| 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 7 | 8 |
| 6 |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |   | 3 |
|   |   | 3 | 6 |   | 8 | 5 |   |
|   | 2 |   |   |   | 4 | 3 |   |
| 5 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |

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# Walking Club at Somerset Feels Like Family

by ELENA DURNBAUGH

The conversation I had with Cliff Wagoner about the SkyWalker Club at Somerset Collection lasted 27 minutes in total.

In that time, seven different people came over to where we were chatting in the corner of the Williams Sonoma store to say hello, ask a question, or wish him a good week. He greeted each person by name and told me something about them – the person's role in the club, where they worked, or how long they had been coming to walk at the mall.

The SkyWalker Club provides people with a convenient way to exercise, but the health benefits



SKIP EDDY

aren't what keep people coming back. Members of the club have built a strong sense of community and think of the people there as part of their walking family.

Wagoner, who's official title at Somerset is merchant relations manager, organizes the club and is proud of the familial camaraderie the walking group has.

"What's really heart warming is that they don't seem to mind whether the person is the same color or speaks the same language," he said. "It's a very friendly group. It makes it fun to be around."

Ramesh Joshi, a long-time regular walker, credited Wagoner with fostering the group's connection.

"He remembers everybody's name," Joshi said. "We are all family members. It's a very happy feeling to be here."

The tight-knit nature of the group doesn't make it exclusive, though.

"We still welcome any newcomer to join," said Joshi's wife, Hema.

According to Wagoner, the roots of the SkyWalker family tree date back to the 1950s, when the mall would put out bagels once a month for the walkers. Since then, the area, the mall, and the walking club have been through a lot of changes. Now, instead of walking by a table of bagels once a month, the group gathers inside a participating store once a week for a coffee hour

where people can socialize.

The group takes its name from the moving-sidewalk that connects the northern and southern part of the mall, which was constructed in 1996. Mark Woodcock has been a member of the club since the mall opened the north side. He said there was nothing like watching the sunrise or looking out over a freshly fallen snow from the skywalk.

"This place here is almost magical," Woodcock said.

Woodcock, like many of the club members, started walking to improve his health. He developed a back issue, and walking was part of his physical therapy. Now, coming to the mall is more than exercise. Even after he and his wife moved to Lake Orion, they still drive to Somerset every weekday to walk and catch up with friends over a cup of coffee.

Ken Lesperance started walking five years ago after he had an aortic aneurysm. He said that when he started coming to the mall, he met with security to explain his health condition, and they would track him to make sure that he didn't fall.

"You feel very safe," he said.

Like Woodcock, Lesperance said he has made a lot of friends in the group.

"They're like family now," he said.

SkyWalkers has over 980 registered members, and every Wednesday, about 120 people come to the coffee hour. Those who attend are entered into the weekly drawing for one of four \$10 gift cards.

People of all ages participate in the walking club. Although many of them are retired, moms with strollers also come to walk. The oldest member of the SkyWalkers is Skip Eddy. She's 98-years-old and has been walking at the mall since her husband died in 1980.

"I had to learn to do things alone, and that's when I started walking," she said.

Eddy enjoys coming to meet people and getting hugs from the other club members.

"You get lots of hugs," she said. "They're good for you."

Joining the walking club is simple. Those who are interested should send an email to Wagoner at cwagoner@thesomersetcollection.com. Members receive the SkyWalkers' Newsletter and a membership badge that entitles them to discounts at certain stores. Doors open at 7 a.m. every day for walkers.

Next month, the SkyWalkers will be participating in the Early Bird Senior Expo at Somerset Collection on Thursday, April 4, from 7:45 a.m. The Early Bird Senior Expo is produced by Gazette Media Group.

# Early Bird Senior Expo

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